

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are pending in this application. The Office Action dated April 1, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-5, and 11 are amended. No new matter is added. In view of the following remarks and the above amendments, Applicants request the favorable consideration of claims 1-9, and 11-13.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lett (WO 95/28799). The Office Action takes the position that the Lett teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-13. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 recites a program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising a means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and means for distinguishing a time period that is in advance designated by a user from other time periods displayed on a display unit.

Claims 2-5 and 11 are amended to include a means for distinguishing a time period in which a previously purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present.

Lett discloses a method and apparatus for providing an interactive electronic programming guide. Figure 5 of Lett illustrates a cursor positioned upon a program and highlighting the time and channel for the cursor position. When the cursor is moved to a different position, as shown in Figure 6, the starting time and channel of the program

where the cursor is positioned is identified. The placing or positioning of the cursor over a particular program title does not result in the designation of a particular time period, since the highlighting follows the cursor position.

Claim 1, however, recites a means for distinguishing a time period that is in advance, designated by a user from other time periods displayed on a display unit. Lett's function is highlighting the program and the time where the cursor is positioned. The placing or positioning of the cursor over a particular program title does not result in the designation of a particular time period, since the highlighting follows the cursor position. In other words, Lett merely discloses a cell designated by a cursor or a cell of pay-per-view being highlighted. Accordingly, Lett does not teach or suggest the distinguishing a time period that is in advance designated by a user from other time periods displayed on a display unit. As a result, Lett does not teach the invention recited in claim 1.

Claims 2, 3 and 11, recite a means for distinguishing a time period in which a previously purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. As mentioned above, Lett merely discloses the function of highlighting the current cursor position. In other words, when the cursor position moves, the new cursor position is highlighted. Lett only discloses distinguishing a time period and program that the users are going to purchase from that time period. In contrast, the claimed invention recites distinguishing a time period in which a previously purchased program is present. Accordingly, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the

purchased program is not present, recited in claims 2, 3 and 11. Therefore, Lett does not teach the invention recited in claims 2, 3 and 11.

Claim 6 recites a means for distinguishing the arbitrary time period from other time periods. It is submitted that Lett does not teach the function recited in claim 6. Lett merely discloses the function of highlighting the cursor position. Thus, when the cursor is moved to a new position, the new program and starting time of the program is highlighted. As a result, an arbitrary time period is not distinguished from other time period. The present invention distinguishes an arbitrary time period from other time periods. Accordingly, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing an arbitrary time period from other time periods, as recited in claim 6.

It should be noted that claims 7-9, 12, and 13 are dependent upon claims 6 and 11. It is submitted that claims 7-9, 12, and 13 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied art for at least the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lett and DeFreese et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6230323). The Office Action takes the position that the combination of Lett and DeFreese teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 4 and 5. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 4 is directed to a program-guide-display controlling apparatus for displaying some program guides of all program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis. The program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprises a means for

displaying such that, if a program guide concerning a program which has been purchased is included in each of the program guides displayed on said display unit, that program guide can be discriminated from a program guide concerning a program which has not been purchased. The apparatus also comprises a means for distinguishing a time period in which a previously purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present, and a means for displaying a mark indicating a direction of the channel axis and a direction in which a channel of a purchased program is present in a region corresponding to the time period in a display region of the display unit if a time period in which a purchased program is present is included in the time period of a program guide displayed on the display unit, and the purchased program guide is not displayed on the display unit.

Claim 5 is directed to a program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising a means for displaying a plurality of items of program guide information on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, and a means for distinguishing a time period in which a previously purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. The distinguishing means comprises a means for displaying a bar if the time period in which a previously purchased program is present is included in the time period of a program guide displayed on said display unit. The bar being displayed in a region proximate the time period in a display region of the display unit.

DeFreese discloses selecting time or setting with a general getting menu. The up-and-down arrow indicators and up-and-down keys are used to highlight timers within a light by positioning a timer within a cursor. Once, a subscriber has completed

reviewing and modifying all timer lists, the subscriber may accept the changes by pressing an application key as indicated by a prompt.

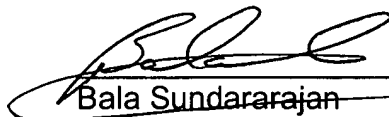
However, DeFreese does not cure the deficiencies of Lett. Specifically, DeFreese fails to teach or suggest a means for distinguishing a time period in which a previously purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of Lett and DeFreese do not teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 4 and 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 5.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Lett neither teaches nor suggests all the features of the claimed invention. Claims 1-5, and 11 are amended. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application containing claims 1-9 and 11-13, is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13.

Should the Examiner believe the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: RCE Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time